



April 17, 2002

Dear Colleague:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccination for adults 19 years of age and older, who are at risk of infection. Nonetheless, millions of these at-risk individuals who receive care in public health facilities are not immunized against these vaccine-preventable diseases. As a first step in the development of a national strategy to address this problem, we are asking for your help with a **Vaccine for Adults at Risk for Hepatitis (VFARH)** needs assessment. The needs assessment will help us determine more fully and accurately the size of the population that should be vaccinated, as well as the amount of vaccine and infrastructure needed to integrate hepatitis A and B immunization programs into existing services.

Integration of hepatitis A and B immunization services into corrections and substance abuse treatment facilities and sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV prevention programs is good public health practice and should be implemented wherever feasible. Immunizing at-risk adults who are already being seen in these public health settings should significantly reduce hepatitis A and B morbidity. With your help, we can take a significant step toward achieving that goal.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

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